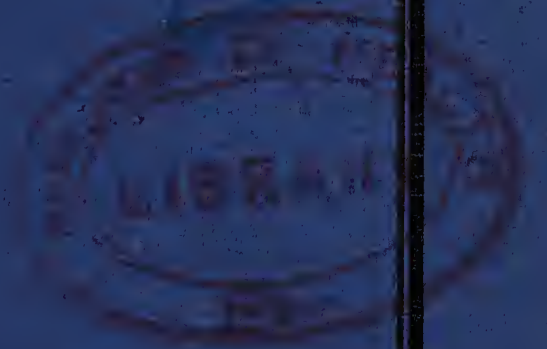


P.R. no 205 London Region



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**
FOR THE YEAR 1942



W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1942

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

July, 1943.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1942 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars this Report has been restricted to essential and urgent matters, and is to be regarded as an Interim Report only.

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and especially to Mr. V. E. Baughan, the Chief Inspector, who has embodied in this Report a large amount of detail of the work carried out under the heading of "Sanitary Inspection of the Area."

Increasing attention is being given to the food and milk supplies of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

AREA.

Total area of District 10,237·363 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1942 is 46,830.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

<i>Sex</i>		<i>Live Legitimate</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males	...	421	20	18	—	459
Females	...	408	28	10	1	447
Totals	...	829	48	28	1	906

BIRTH RATE.

		1941		1942		Basis.
		No.	Birth Rate.	No.	Birth Rate.	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	745	15·622	829	17·702	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	47	0·985	48	1·025	
	Total	792	16·607	877	18·727	
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	35	42·168	28	30·905	Per 1,000 total (<i>i.e.</i> , live and still) births
	Illegitimate	3	3·614	1	1·103	
	Total	38	45·772	29	32·008	
TOTAL BIRTHS	Legitimate	780	16·356	857	18·300	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	50	1·051	49	1·046	
	Total	830	17·407	906	19·346	

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

		Total Deaths (All Causes).		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.	
		1941	1942	1941	1942
Male	...	280	235	11·556	9·78
Female	...	271	223		
TOTAL	...	551	458		

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	
	1941.	1942.
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Diphtheria	3	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	3
Enteric Fever	1	—
Pneumonia	41	31
Measles (all ages)	1	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	7	—
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	23	26
Non-Pulmonary	5	3
Heart Disease	128	97
Cancer	69	70
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	36	36
Influenza	6	1
Bronchitis	32	15
Kidney Disease	11	18
Appendicitis	5	3
Puerperal causes	Nil	—
Other maternal causes	1	1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000.</i>
In Total Live Births ...	27	17	44	50·17
In Legitimate Live Births	26	16	42	50·66
In Illegitimate Live Births	1	1	2	41·66

The number of deaths of infants under one year has decreased from 64 during 1941 to 44 during the year under review. The rate has decreased from 82·07 to 50·17.

NOTE.—The Registrar-General has provided an adjusted figure of births, for the purpose of this calculation, which allows for temporary movements of population.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

<i>Disease.</i>	1941.	1942.
Scarlet Fever	64	136
Diphtheria	44	43
Enteric Fever	3	—
Erysipelas	29	33
Puerperal Pyrexia	29	69
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	9	2
Pneumonia	65	56
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	48	75
Non-Pulmonary	11	15
Poliomyelitis	1	1
Whooping Cough	264	72
Measles	1,146	404

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of immunisations completed in the year is 3,046, divided into two age groups, as follows:—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15.</i>
989	2,057

This brings the total number of children immunised up to 6,349.

The General Practitioners' service has lapsed, all immunisations being carried out at Clinics held at selected places. Later the Middlesex County Council Medical Officers completed immunisations at their School and Welfare Clinics, and these continued actively at the end of 1942. I am indeed grateful for the help and interest the School and Welfare Medical Officers have taken.

A monthly session was held at the First Aid Post, County Offices, Uxbridge, by a local doctor.

Every effort was made during the year to get as many children as possible protected against diphtheria. Attractive lantern slides were designed in this Department and were very kindly exhibited by the managements of the three cinemas. Posters have been displayed in prominent places, and pamphlets on the subject have been distributed wherever possible.

When you observe the figure of 989 under five, I would like you to bear in mind that no child is immunised until the age of one year is attained.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following modified form of report is a summary of the work carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1942, when a total of 4,091 visits were made, the following being the principal items:—

Housing Act	...	...	...	...	345
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	1,184
Prevention of Infectious Disease	...				308
Verminous conditions including Scabies					601
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	114
Food Supply including Milk Production					634
Drainage	...	...	...	...	184
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	7
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	201
Gipsy encampments	...	...	...	...	186

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls slaughterhouses and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold have been frequently visited and the various foodstuffs examined. Considerable activity has arisen from such visits, which have received increased attention, particularly salvage of foodstuffs.

During the year 94 pigs were slaughtered under licence of the Ministry of Food; these were inspected and little disease was found. One carcase was condemned (swine erysipelas) and in addition 1 head and pluck (tuberculosis).

There is close co-operation between the Department and the local and divisional offices of the Ministry of Food.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings.

During the year 12 samples were taken from the mains of the Council's undertaking, and 12 from those of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All proved to be satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the District are inspected several times during the course of each year. The premises generally are of satisfactory character.

There are 19 cowkeepers in the area, 5 of whom are licenced as "Accredited" producers by the Middlesex County Council. There are 11 other purveyors, of whom 5 have bottling premises out of the area.

Seventeen principal and 3 supplementary licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Thirty-six samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination, which showed that most of the samples were of a reasonable degree of purity.

In one case tuberculous infection was found, and action taken led to the slaughter of a cow in Denham, from which area the milk was purchased by the retailer from whom the sample was taken.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Checks upon efficiency of sterilisation of utensils and apparatus are carried out, the necessary apparatus being prepared in the Department. Such samples are sent to Dr. McGowan, our pathologist.

It was necessary to draw attention to inefficient cleansing of bottles at a dairy in the District, and as a result of pressure brought upon him the dairyman took steps to instal an electrically operated automatic bottle-washing machine.

Gerber tests for fats, etc., are carried out in the Department on all samples as a matter of routine. None were found unsatisfactory.

PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

All samples (milk, water, food, sputa, swabs, etc.) are now submitted to Dr. McGowan, 70, Sharps Lane, Ruislip, for reports. This results in a considerable saving of time in receiving information.

